Volume 15, Edition 3 March 2011

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

The March meeting will feature guest speaker, Bob Vallio, W6RGG, Pacific Director of the ARRL. I have heard him speak at several occasions and you will not be disappointed by his presentation.

Here is my annual plea to encourage any non-ARRL member to join. Its not just the QST magazine, but the support to the only organization safeguarding our hobby. The price is well worth it.

The ARRL DX contest has come and gone. It was gratifying to see so much activity on 15 and 10 meters. Here is a breakdown to show how much the bands have improved.

80m 2 Q's, 40m 42 Q's, 20m 49 Q's, 15m 143 Q's and 10m 49 Q's.

Yes, the linear amplifier does help.

Darrel, WC6BOR, and I did a presentation at this month's EAA meeting on airborne Ham Radio. We have done this a couple of times on our trips to and from the big fly in at Oshkosh, Wi.

Congratulation to Ken, N6KM, on his new Orion radio.

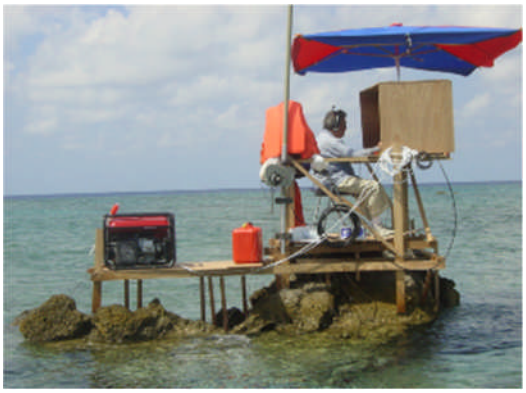
Next month we will have our hamfest planning session. Make sure you come and be prepared to volunteer for one of the many duties that make this event a go.

There is a disturbing bill heading to Congress, H.R. 607, that would auction off the 70 cm band. I would encourage members o visit the ARRL website and learn more about it and let our representatives that this is a bad bill for hams. This another reason to become a member of the ARRL is you are not already one. Its the only organization the can defend our interests.

We would like to have a big turn out for this meeting so make sure to attend.

—Jim K6UUW

Bob Vallio, W6RGG operating BS7H at Scarborough Reef



Bob Vallio, W6RGG, ARRL Pacific Division Director, will be the guest speaker at the March meeting.

First licensed as WN6RGG in 1952. Active on HF, VHF and UHF for over 50 years. Active in emergency communications for over 30 years. Avid DXer and contester, working both from home and from numerous expeditions on six continents.

Director of the YASME Foundation. Active in Alameda County Sheriff's Communications

Team (a RACES unit) for over 30 years, currently serving as Chief Radio Officer. Charter member of the Northern California Contest Club. Long time member of the Northern California DX Club. Professional Experience: Retired System Design Consultant, Pacific Bell, 1990. Attended San Jose State College.

Bob will speak on latest happenings at the ARRL.

Minutes for February 16, 2011

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable President, James Hill, K6UUW at 7:40 PM on February 16, 2011.

Introductions were made. There were 16 people in attendance. Members in attendance were, WD6BOR, KF6FZM, KJ6DPZ, NJ6E, KA2QQO, K6KLL, N7PIB, N6PWV, N6KM, WB6TMH, KI6FFM, KD6KVL, KI6RTP, K6UUW and KD6FIL.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes were approved after correcting typos to call signs for KI6FZM, KJ6DPZ and K6KLL

Treasurer, Desmond, KI6DPZ, said that we had money and was accepting dues.

ACS, Ken, N6KM said that they are working on getting new ACS ID Cards. 4 days are being reviewed for ACS drills. The current ACS roster has 15 members for the Sonoma Valley section. It is more realistic to expect 11 members to be available for call outs in an emergency. ACS is open to suggestions on how to get more members.

Website, the website is looking good. We are looking for net control stations for May June and July for VOMARC and March and May for ACS. If you want to get anything posted to the website let KG6QNT know.

Old Business

Status of Tax forms. We can file the 990-N E postcard since we have less than $25,000 a year in income. The forms need to be filed by May 15, for the year ending December 31, 2010.

Hamfest: The flyer is on the Website. We need to get the word out to the other clubs in the Bay Area. Mailing labels have been ordered for the hams in the Sonoma Valley. Jim said he would contact HRO about a donation for the hamfest. We are always looking for help with advertising if anyone is interested.

Log book of the World: Jim has it up and running and is willing to provide assistance to anyone who is interested.

We talked about moving the VOMARC net to 146.730. The 145.350 repeater is not hearing the handhelds that are trying to check in.

New Business

Field Trip to Sutro Tower is tentatively scheduled for **April 1**. Plan on leaving Sonoma at 9 AM. There is discussion about getting a bus to take the group down. The final day, time and sign up will be announced at a future meeting.

Field Day is set for Camp Via this year. There was discussion about trying to find a more public place for next year. Camp Via is very hard to get to and we do not get a lot of public contact. Publicizing the event could bring in more people, but we would need to have someone stay at the gate to let people in.

We need to schedule a Windom building workshop to convert the club's G5RV antennas.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM

The Presentation was on Sao Tome Island by N7PIB and how he ended up traveling there.

—Dave KD6FIL

NEW HAM RADIO BAND or FIND A LOT OF WIRE

Amateur Radio has moved a step closer to a medium frequency (MF) allocation below the AM broadcast band. During the first week of the Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM) for the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12) of the International Telecommunication Union, held in Geneva February 14-25, delegates completed the drafting of nine pages of analysis of the technical and regulatory issues related to WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.23: consideration of a possible secondary allocation to the Amateur

Service of about 15 kHz somewhere between 415 and 526.5 kHz. Two possible methods of satisfying the agenda item, along with the possibility of there being no change (and therefore no allocation), are set out in the CPM Report, along with the advantages and disadvantages of each . (from ARRL newsletter)

Three Yachtsmen Killed by Somali Pirates were Hams

Four Americans -- including three Amateur Radio operators -- who were being held hostage on their yacht by pirates off the coast of Oman have been killed. Scott Adam, K9ESO, and his wife Jean, KF6RVB, along with Bob Riggle, KE7IIV, and Phyllis Macay were on board the S/V *Quest* when pirates boarded their vessel on Friday, February 18. The Adams were based in the Los Angeles area; Riggle and Macay were from Seattle. (from ARRl newsletter)

H.R. BILL INTRODUCED

Last month, a bill was introduced in the US House of Representatives that addresses certain spectrum management issues, including the creation and maintenance of a nationwide Public broadband network. This bill -- HR 607, known as *The Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011* -- if passed, also calls to auction off parts of the 70 cm band, namely 420-440 and 450-470 MHz. As such, the ARRL asked its members to write their Representative, asking them to not support HR 607 in its current form.

According to ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, Chwat & Co -- the ARRL's legislative relations firm in Washington, DC -- received almost 1000 letters in just the first week from League members in opposition to HR 607. "This is a great start and many thanks to the diligent members who have risen to the challenge; however, it cannot stop there. As long as HR 607 is in its current form, we must continue this campaign." He clarified that the ARRL opposes HR 607 *in its present form*: "We do not oppose the concept of dedicated spectrum for the development of a Public Safety infrastructure and wireless network. We object to the bill because of the inclusion of 420-440 MHz as part of the spectrum to be swapped and auctioned to commercial users."

(From ARRL website) I will bring a sample letter to the next meeting to share with anyone desiring to contact your representative or you can visit http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-members-respond-to-hr-607

—Jim K6UUW

The Lost Art of Cable Lacing

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The Make: magazine blog is a wealth of information for amateur radio operators. Recently, they ran a post on what they consider to be on the "lost technology" of cable lacing <http://blog.makezine.com/archive/2009/07/lost-knowledge-cable-lacing.html>.

The blog post does a great job of explaining the technique and includes several illustrations. One of them <http://cdn.makezine.com/make/blogs/blog.makezine.com/upload/2009/10/lost_knowledge_cable_lacing/cableLacing6b.gif> is a drawing from an old ARRL handbook. There are also a link to the Wikipedia page on cable lacing <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cable_lacing>.

Nowadays, we mostly use zip ties to bundle cables, but there are disadvantages to using them. For one thing, to apply them properly, you should have a tool that controls how tightly the zip tie holds the wires. This is to prevent crushing the insulation.

Also, I've found that zip ties don't do so well when the cable has only two or three wires. They're just not designed to hold so few wires. I think that cable lacing would do a much better job of keeping a small bundle of wires together, say wires that connect front panel components to a PC board.

Cable lacing certainly looks much cooler than zip ties. This is the perfect technique for those homebrewers that want to make their projects look great as well as work great.

I asked on my blog, "Now, where can I find the 'wax-impregnated cotton or twine'?" and my readers came through. Hamilton said, "Apparently you find wax string here: http://www.kitkraft.biz/product.php?productid=1496. I remember using it for something as a kid, but I can't place it." Ron McKenz wrote, "I notice that a number of telco vendor sell waxed lacing cord. Here are a few URLs: http://www.sourcetelsupply.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=27, http://www.tessco.com/yts/resourcecenter/pdfs/clablelacing-FAQ.pdf, and http://www.oelsales.com/product.cfm/267/.

Ned, WB4KBO, said, "I would suggest a large roll of dental tape and a large-diameter curves sewing needle for fabricating harnesses. I was told that this was the material of choice for lacing harnesses when i worked at Heath Company many years ago. Makes sense to me. Buy it at Meijer for an occasional harness, or a dental wholesale supply house if you are going into production. Also great stuff for kite rigging, vine lacing and many other things."

Mike, WA6ARA wrote, "What you want is Mil-T-43435. It is better than a cord, it is a flat weave tape, nylon, and waxed. It is made for cable lacing but is use now in the parachute industry as "super tack". Item T1050 at http://www.paragear.com"

So, there you have it. Links to show you how to do it, and a couple more links for where to find the lacing material. I now expect all of our homebrew to look a lot neater.

==========

When not worrying about how to lace cable instead of using zip ties, Dan, KB6NU, blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com, teaches ham radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him around 7.030 MHz or e-mail him pictures of your beautifully-laced cables at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

2011 ACS
Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	EILEEN	KG6QNT
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH		
APRIL	MARTY	KI6RTP
MAY		
JUNE	GEORGE	K6ITE
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST	KEN	N6KM
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WD6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

2011 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ED	WIEJ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	JOAN	W6WXU
APRIL	DAVE	KG6FIL
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST	KEN	N6KM
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR
DECEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH

THE VOMARC WIRELESS
VOLUME 15 EDITION 3

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Ed Jacobson W1EJ – Vice-President,

Dave Dammuller KD6FIL – Secretary

Desmond Kelly, KI6DPZ – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Joel Nadler, NN6J – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge or the Sonoma Fire Station on 2nd St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: http://www.vomarc.org/

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

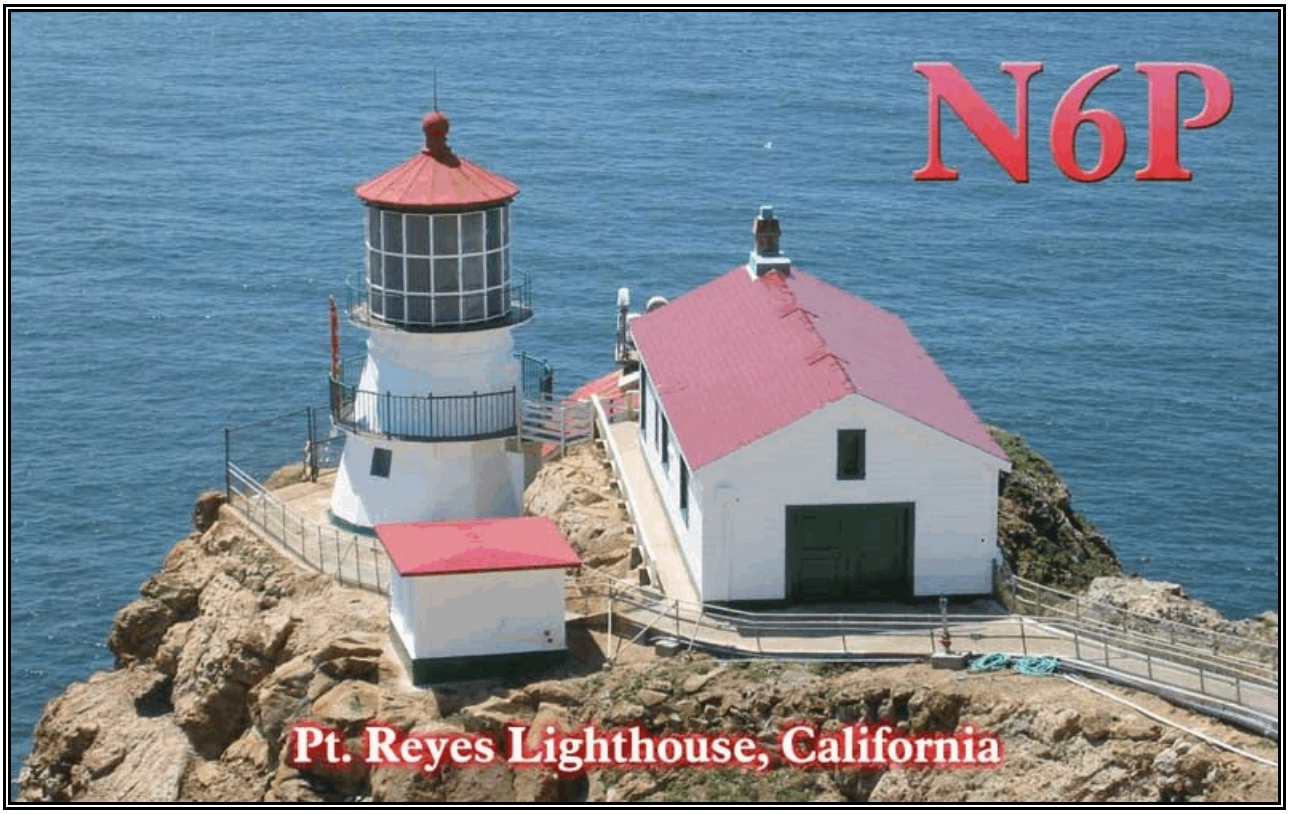
Eileen@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club with the cooperation of the National Park Service will activate

Amateur Radio Station -N6P



Sat. Aug. 6th 1600Z to Sun. Aug. 7th 2359Z - 2011

SSB: 14270,7270 kHz
PSK: 14070, 7035 kHz
QSLs via W6AJF w/S.A.S.E.

Point Reyes is the windiest place on the Pacific Coast and the second foggiest place on the North American continent. The lighthouse, built in 1870 and retired in 1975, is now under management by the National Park Service. It is the one of the few lighthouses in the U. S. which have the original Fresnel lens and clockwork mechanism in working order.

[See www.vomarc.org , www.nps.gov/PORE and www.arlhs.com.]

[March 3, 2011]

Valley of the Moon ARC
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

THE NEXT MEETING IS Wed, MARCH 16, 2011 at MC DOUGAL HALL AT THE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER IN ELDRIDGE
SEE YOU THERE.

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2011 Membership Dues: $15/year individual; $5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP:_____

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: $ _____ Complimentary with Class--Date:_____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Dues may be mailed to Desmond KI6DZP, 416 Claudia Dr, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.
Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC.**